

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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S E C R E T TOKYO 12940

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, JA

SUBJECT: CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS TRANSIT OF ALASKA

REF: TOKYO 12737

1. ACTING ON BASIS OF SHOESMITH-ERICSON TELECON, EMBOFF CALLED URGENTLY MORNING OCT 5 ON FONOFF PROTOCOL OFFICER KUBOTA TO STRAIGHTEN OUT APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS CONCERNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR CROWN PRINCE'S STOPOVER AT ANCHORAGE. EMBOFF TALKED WITH KUBOTA, WHO HAD BEEN PRESENT DURING PREVIOUS MEETING REPORTED REFTEL, BECAUSE PROTOCOL DEPUTY CHIEF NOMURA IS CURRENTLY OUT OF TOKYO.

2. EMBOFF OPENED DISCUSSION BY INDICATING THAT POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CROWN PRINCE'S STOPOVER IN ANCHORAGE WHICH HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN PURELY EXPLORATORY FASHION IN TOKYO HAD SOMEHOW EMERGED CONSIDERABLY EMBROIDERED AS FIRM COMMITMENT IN THINKING OF JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON. KUBOTA RESPONDED BY AGREEING COMPLETELY THAT PREVIOUS MEETING HAD BEEN ENTIRELY EXPLORATORY IN NATURE AND WITHOUT COMMITMENT ON EITHER SIDE. HE PROFESSED TO BE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY POINT OF VIEW WHICH JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON EXPRESSED TO DEPT. DURING COURSE OF ENSUING DISCUSSION, FOLLOWING EXPLANATIONS EMERGED WITH RESPECT TO APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

3. REST FACILITIES - KUBOTA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PREVIOUS DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT HAD CONTAINED NO RPT NO REFERENCE TO ELMENDORF
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AFB OR QUARTERS OF COMMANDING GENERAL. HOWEVER, FONOFF HAD RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM CONGEN NISHIKATA IN ANCHORAGE INDICATING THAT ELMENDORF AFB PROTOCOL OFFICER HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM AND "OFFERED USE OF ELMENDORF AFB" INASMUCH AS "COMMANDING

GENERAL HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY TELEGRAM FROM WASHINGTON THAT CROWN PRINCE'S PLANE WAS EXPECTED TO LAND AT ELMENDORF". IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S INQUIRY, KUBOTA SAID TELEGRAM FROM NICHIKATA HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN SPECIFIC CONCERNING WHAT FACILITIES AT ELMENDORF WERE BEING OFFERED. EMBOFF INFERRED RPT INFERRED FROM THIS PART OF DISCUSSION THAT FONOFF MAY HAVE CONSTRUED OFFER FROM ELMENDORF PROTOCOL OFFICER AS INCLUDING REST FACILITIES WHICH HAD BEEN PLACED AT DISPOSAL OF EMPEROR AND EMPRESS.

4. HELICOPTERS - EMBOFF POINTED OUT TO KUBOTA THAT DURING PREVIOUS MEETING, VARIOUS MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION -- INCLUDING CARS, BOAT AND HELICOPTERS -- HAD BEEN DISCUSSED IN CONNECTION WITH CROWN PRINCE'S DESIRE TO VISIT GLACIER. HOWEVER, EMBOFF AT THAT TIME HAD MADE CLEAR THAT HE HAD NO PRECISE INFORMATION ON WHAT TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES WERE EITHER AVAILABLE OR FEASIBLE FOR SUCH PURPOSE. KUBOTA RESPONDED THAT JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAD APPARENTLY MISCONSTRUED THIS POINT AS WELL. HE SAID FONOFF MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON STATED THAT IF RPT IF USG CHOSE TO PUT HELICOPTERS AT DISPOSAL OF CROWN PRINCE AND ENTIRE PARTY, SUCH OFFER WOULD BE ACCEPTED. KUBOTA ADDED THAT IN FACT CONGEN NISHIKATA HAS ALREADY ARRANGED FOR USE OF CARS BY CROWN PRINCE AND ENTIRE PARTY TO MAKE EXCURSION ESTIMATED TO REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY THREE HOURS ROUND TRIP. KUBOTA CONFIRMED THAT FIRST PRIORITY IS TO KEEP ENTIRE PARTY TOGETHER AND READILY ACCEPTED EMBOFF'S OBSERVATION THAT IT WAS MOST UNLIKELY THAT SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT ELMENDORF, EVEN ASSUMING THAT THIS WAS APPROPRIATE OR FEASIBLE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION FOR ACCOMPLISHING CROWN PRINCE'S PURPOSES.

5. HAVING REVIEWED POINTS MENTIONED ABOVE, KUBOTA AGREED THAT MATTER OF USG ASSISTANCE TO CP WAS STILL IN DISCUSSION STAGE WITH NO FINAL DECISIONS OR COMMITMENTS MADE. HOWEVER, HE SAID FONOFF WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF USG COULD INDICATE ASAP, ON BASIS OF VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED, WHAT FORMS OF ASSISTANCE IT MAY IN FACT OFFER. HE ADDED THAT GOJ WOULD OF COURSE, BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY ASSISTANCE.

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6. COMMENT - DISCUSSION WAS FRIENDLY AND NON-CONTENTIOUS THROUGHOUT. ANY ASSUMPTIONS MADE IN TOKYO OR WASHINGTON SEEMED TO US TO HAVE BEEN INNOCENT AND NOT CALCULATED TO FORCE ANY PARTICULAR SCENARIIO ON USG. ON OTHER HAND, FONOFF IS UNDERSTANDINGLY ANXIOUS TO COMPLETE PREPARATIONS FOR CROWN PRINCE'S STOPOVER OCT 11 AND WE SUGGEST FOCUS OF USG EFFORTS AT THIS STAGE SHOULD BE DETERMINATION OF WHAT IN FACT WE ARE PREPARED TO OFFER.
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